

Policy Statement Defining ‘Acceptable Coordinate Systems’

Archival data that are appropriate for inclusion in NASA’s planetary data archive must be in an internationally accepted coordinate system. The prevailing international authority for the coordinates on bodies of the solar system is the Working Group on Cartographic Coordinates and Rotational Elements (WGCCRE) of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). Acceptable Coordination Systems are those coordinate systems already defined by the IAU or a coordinate system which conforms to the WGCCRE guidelines for defining coordinate systems.

Policy Statement on Implementing ‘Acceptable Coordinate Systems’

The PDS Management Council instructs review panels to determine if the coordinate system used in data conforms to an IAU standard, if one exists. For new coordinate systems, whether improvements for an existing coordinate system or the first defined for a body, the review panel is to determine if the coordinate system conforms to IAU/ WGCCRE guidelines, including that a full description of the coordinate system is available in a refereed publication, whether that is a journal article or a PDS dataset.